

Novel Study

Record notes to help you analyze any novel you read.

Title of Novel: _____

Author: _____

Setting and Characters

1. The story takes place in _____

2. The action happens in the past / the present / the future. (*circle one*)

3. Jot down some words or phrases that the writer uses to describe the setting.

4. List the names of the major and minor characters.

Major Characters	Minor Characters

5. Choose one major character: _____

Write words that describe that character's **traits**, or personality. _____

6. Writers help readers understand a character's traits using the techniques in the chart below. Give one example of each. Use quotations and include page numbers.

Describing the Character's Physical Appearance	Describing the Character's Speech, Thoughts, and Actions
Describing How Other Characters React to the Character	Describing What the Narrator Says About the Character

Plot and Conflict

1. At the beginning of the novel, the writer introduces readers to _____

2. Describe the main **conflict**, or problem. How and when does the writer introduce the conflict?

3. The conflict is external (between a character and an opposing force) / internal (within the character's own mind). (*circle one*) Explain how you can tell.

4. The conflict becomes more complicated when _____

5. The conflict reaches a turning point, or **climax**, when _____

6. The writer resolves the conflict at the end of the story by _____

Narrative Techniques, Craft, and Message

1. The novel is told from the first-person / third-person-limited / third-person-omniscient point of view. (*circle one*) Write words and phrases that reveal the point of view. _____

2. The writer's choice of narrator affects your understanding of the story because:

3. What is one way your understanding of the story might change if the writer used a different point of view?

4. Choose one part of the story. Record words and phrases the writer uses to describe the characters, the conflict, or the setting. What **mood**, or feeling, do these details create? _____

5. What words would you use to describe the writer's style? Here are some words that describe style: *informal, formal, flowery, direct, humorous*. Give examples of words and phrases that convey the writer's style.

6. The writer communicates an important message about life and human nature, or a **theme**. In your own words, explain one theme of the novel. _____

7. There are many kinds of clues that can help you uncover the theme of a novel, including those shown in the graphic organizer. Record the clues that helped you find the theme.

Clue to Theme	Examples from the Text
The Title Sometimes, the title of the novel can reveal an important message.	
Important Statements That Characters Make The characters might give a warning to others or state the lesson as wise advice.	
Setting The setting and the characters' reactions to it can be a clue to the theme.	
The Resolution, or Ending How the conflict is resolved can suggest a theme.	
Symbols A symbol is a recurring image, description, or idea that stands for something beyond itself. Symbols can emphasize theme.	

8. Writers can describe characters or settings in really interesting ways. Sometimes, they use **figurative language**—descriptions that are not literally true. Examples of figurative language include:
- **Simile:** a comparison between two things that uses the word *like* or *as*
 - **Metaphor:** a comparison between two things that does not use the word *like* or *as*
 - **Personification:** describing something non-human in human terms
 - **Hyberbole:** an exaggeration for emphasis

Record examples of figurative language that you find as you read. In each instance, describe what the figurative language helps to emphasize or communicate. What is the effect on readers?

Example of Figurative Language (include page number)	Effects on Reader

My Evaluation

1. I would / would not recommend this novel to a friend because . . .

2. Out of five stars, with five being the highest, I would give this book a: ____ because

3. I would / would not make this book into a movie because . . .

4. If I could ask the writer a question about this book, I would ask: _____

:

5. My favorite character is because
